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Center for Geographic Information is Established

In an effort to heighten the awareness and use of geographic information, Director Jacque Passino today announced the establishment of the Michigan Center for Geographic Information (CGI) with the Department of Information Technology.

“Accurate geographic information is an essential ingredient in nearly every aspect of state government planning and policy making,” said Director Passino. “All State of Michigan departments collect and/or use some form of geographic data to conduct their daily business practices.”

Michigan has a rich history in the development, use and dissemination of digital geographic information and has been a national leader on many fronts. Passino added, “The creation of the Center of Geographic Information reflects Governor Engler’s vision for better coordination of geographic information technology across state government and brings about improved information management and data standardization.”

“The CGI will provide leadership, technical expertise, and policy for the development, use, dissemination, promotion and sharing of the state’s geographic resources,” said Engler.

Geographic information allows policy makers to find ways for state government to more effectively and efficiently serve the citizens, businesses and other governments of the state in the areas of public protection, homeland security, economic development, environmental protection and transportation.

Visit the CGI website at www.michigan.gov/cgi to gain access to over 60 statewide datasets including the state’s basemap (MI Geographic Framework), aerial imagery, geology, hydrography, land ownership, topography, and much more. An online map library, grant opportunities, standards and an overview of current state geographic information system projects may be viewed as well.

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